

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting a wagering game, comprising:

conducting a basic game having a randomly selected outcome that is indicated by displaying selected ones of a plurality of basic-game symbols, one of said randomly selected outcomes being a start-bonus outcome;

in response to said start-bonus outcome being achieved in said basic game, conducting a bonus game in which a plurality of selectable elements fixedly associated with respective award indicia are displayed, said plurality of selectable elements and said award indicia being distinct from said plurality of basic-game symbols;

selecting, via a player input, one or more of said plurality of selectable elements;

providing a bonus-game award based upon said award indicia of selected ones of said plurality of selectable elements, said bonus game award being independent of any award provided in said basic game; and

after said selecting, revealing said award indicia associated with unselected ones of said plurality of selectable elements, thereby permitting a player to view said award indicia that did not result in said bonus-game award.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said revealing occurs before said providing.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said basic game includes a plurality of reels bearing said plurality of basic-game symbols, said conducting includes rotating said plurality of reels and stopping said plurality of reels.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said plurality of selectable elements are not associated with any symbol on said plurality of reels.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said selecting is performed by use of a touch screen.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said selecting includes selecting said one or more of said plurality of selectable elements until selecting a selectable element with an award indicia that has a stop-bonus-game symbol.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said award indicia includes a credit amount.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said award indicia includes a credit amount.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said award indicia includes a multiplier value.
31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said conducting said basic game includes depicting on a display a first set of display images and said conducting said bonus game includes depicting on said display a second set of display images after said first set of display images is no longer shown on said display.
32. (Cancel)
33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said award indicia includes a stop-bonus-game symbol.
34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said award indicia includes a multiplier value.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said bonus game does not result in a loss of any basic-game award that has been achieved prior to the bonus game.
36. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine for conducting a wagering game, comprising:
a wager-input device for receiving a wager;
at least one display for displaying a basic game having a plurality of basic-game symbols and a bonus game having a plurality of selectable elements fixedly associated with

respective award indicia, said plurality of selectable elements and said award indicia being distinct from said plurality of basic-game symbols;

an element-selecting device for receiving player selections corresponding to said plurality of selectable elements in said bonus game; and

a processor coupled to said wager-input device, said element-selecting device and said at least one display, in response to a start-bonus outcome being achieved in said basic game, said processor (i) instructing said at least one display to display said plurality of selectable elements of said bonus game, (ii) receiving at least one player selection from said element-selecting device, and (iii) revealing award indicia of selected ones of said plurality of selectable elements, and wherein said processor, after receiving said at least one player selection, instructs said display to reveal said award indicia associated with unselected ones of said plurality of selectable elements and awards a bonus-game award corresponding to said award indicia of said selected ones of said plurality of selectable elements, said bonus game award being independent of any award provided in said basic game.

37. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 36, wherein said basic game includes a plurality of reels bearing said basic-game symbols, said reels being rotated and stopped to place said basic-game symbols in visual association with a display area on said display.

38. (Cancel)

39. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 36, wherein said award indicia includes a multiplier value.
40. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 36, wherein said element-selecting device is a touch screen.
41. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 36, wherein said at least one display is exactly one display, said basic game depicts on said one display a first set of display images and said bonus game depicts on said one display a second set of display images after said first set of display images are no longer shown on said one display.
42. (Cancel)
43. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 36, wherein said award indicia includes a stop-bonus-game symbol.
44. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 43, wherein said award indicia includes a multiplier value.
45. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 36, wherein said bonus game does not result in a loss of any basic-game award that has been achieved prior to the bonus game.
46. (Previously Presented) A method of conducting a wagering game, comprising:

conducting a basic game until a start-bonus outcome is achieved, said basic game including a plurality of symbol-bearing reels;

in response to said start-bonus outcome, conducting a bonus game including displaying a plurality of selectable elements fixedly associated with respective award indicia, said plurality of selectable elements being distinct from symbols on said plurality of symbol-bearing reels;

revealing said award indicia associated with selected ones of said plurality of selectable elements; and

after said revealing said award indicia associated with selected ones of said plurality of selectable elements, revealing said award indicia associated with unselected ones of said plurality of selectable elements, thereby permitting a player to view said award indicia that were not achieved in said bonus game.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein said award indicia has a credit-amount award.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said award indicia includes a stop-bonus-game symbol.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said revealing said award indicia associated with unselected ones of said plurality of selectable elements occurs in response to selecting a selectable element with an award indicia having said stop-bonus-game symbol.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein said plurality of symbol-bearing reels are video reels.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein said conducting said basic game includes depicting on a display a first set of display images related to said video reels and said conducting said bonus game includes depicting on said display a second set of display images after said first set of display images are no longer shown on said display.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein said bonus game does not result in a loss of any basic-game award that has been achieved prior to the bonus game.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein said revealing said award indicia associated with selected ones of said plurality of selectable elements occurs in response to player selections from a touch screen.

54. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting a wagering game, comprising:
conducting a basic game until a start-bonus outcome is achieved, said conducting including displaying images of a plurality of basic-game symbols that are indicative of outcomes in said basic game;
in response to said start-bonus outcome, terminating said displaying of said images of said plurality of basic-game symbols;

in response to said start-bonus outcome, displaying images of a plurality of selectable elements fixedly associated with respective award indicia for a bonus game, said plurality of selectable elements being distinct from said plurality of basic-game symbols, said award indicia for at least one of said plurality of selectable elements having a monetary value, said award indicia for at least one of said plurality of selectable elements being a stop-bonus-game symbol, said monetary value being determined for said bonus game based on a wager amount in said basic game;

revealing said award indicia associated with selected ones of said plurality of selectable elements; and

after said revealing said award indicia associated with selected ones of said plurality of selectable elements, revealing said award indicia associated with unselected ones of said plurality of selectable elements, thereby permitting a player to view said award indicia that were not achieved in said bonus game.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said basic game includes a plurality of video reels bearing said plurality of basic-game symbols.

56. (Cancel).

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54 ~~56~~, wherein said revealing said award indicia associated with unselected ones of said plurality of selectable elements occurs in response to selecting a selectable element with an award indicia having said stop-bonus-game symbol.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, further including awarding a bonus-game award based on said selected ones of said plurality of selectable elements.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein said bonus-game award is independent of any basic-game award.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said monetary value is in wagering-game credits.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, further including, prior to said revealing steps, selecting said selected ones of said plurality of selectable elements by a player.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein said selecting is performed by use of a touch screen.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said bonus game does not result in a loss of any basic-game award that has been achieved prior to the bonus game.

64. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting a wagering game, comprising:

conducting a basic game until a start-bonus outcome is achieved, said conducting including displaying images of a plurality of basic-game symbols that are indicative of outcomes in said basic game;

in response to said start-bonus outcome, terminating said displaying of said images of said plurality of basic-game symbols;

in response to said start-bonus outcome, displaying images of a plurality of selectable elements fixedly associated with respective award indicia for a bonus game, said plurality of selectable elements being arranged in a multi-row and multi-column array, said plurality of selectable elements being distinct from said plurality of basic-game symbols, said award indicia for at least one of said plurality of selectable elements having a monetary value, said award indicia for at least one of said plurality of selectable elements being a stop-bonus-game symbol, said monetary value being determined for said bonus game based on a wager amount in said basic game;

receiving player-inputs for selected ones of said plurality of selectable elements;
and

after said receiving said player-inputs for selected ones of said plurality of selectable elements, revealing said award indicia associated with unselected ones of said plurality of selectable elements, thereby permitting a player to view said award indicia that were not achieved in said bonus game.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said receiving said player inputs is performed by use of a touch screen.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said bonus game does not result in a loss of any basic-game award that has been achieved prior to the bonus game.

67. (Cancel)

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 65 ~~67~~, wherein said revealing said award indicia associated with unselected ones of said plurality of selectable elements occurs in response to receiving a player input of a selectable element with an award indicia having said stop-bonus-game symbol.

69. (Previously Presented) A gaming machine for conducting a wagering game feature, comprising:

at least one display; and

a processor coupled to said at least one display and operative to

instruct said at least one display to display selected ones of a plurality of basic-game symbols for indicating an outcome of a basic game;

in response to a start-bonus outcome being achieved in said basic game, instruct said at least one display to display a plurality of selectable elements fixedly associated with respective award indicia, said plurality of selectable elements being distinct from said plurality of basic-game symbols, said award indicia for at least one of said plurality of selectable elements having a monetary value, said monetary value being determined for said bonus game based on a wager amount in said basic game;

receive player inputs of one or more of said plurality of selectable elements; and

after receiving said player inputs, instruct said at least one display to reveal said award indicia associated with unselected ones of said plurality of selectable elements.

70. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 69, wherein said basic game includes a plurality of reels bearing said basic-game symbols, said reels being rotated and stopped to place said basic-game symbols in visual association with a display area on said at least one display.

71. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 69, wherein said processor is further operative to award a bonus-game award based on said player inputs, said bonus-game award is independent of any basic-game award.

72. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 69, wherein said award indicia includes a stop-bonus-game symbol.

73. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 69, wherein said award indicia includes a multiplier value.

74. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 69, wherein said bonus game does not result in a loss of any basic-game award that has been achieved prior to the bonus game.